



# NEWS & VIEWS

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[www.apwuauxiliary.org](http://www.apwuauxiliary.org)

## Let's Talk about the Holiday Buying Season Trisa Mannion– President

Since it is the largest shopping time of the year, I am imploring you to buy American made goods. Let's talk about the reasons it is good for you and your family. It is more than the need to keep our children employed, we want to be able to buy goods should we have trade wars implemented, it is more than it helps our economy,



*Let's keep America strong by keeping our unions strong.*

although these are solid reasons. The deficit in goods and services was \$621 billion in 2018 and the trade deficit in goods was \$891 billion.

Buying union-made any time of the year helps stabilize the middle class and in turn the Postal Service. Buying goods made in this country, especially union-made goods, means they are made using higher standards. People, including children, are not being forced to work for substandard wages in dank dark factories in very dangerous conditions. Remember the lessons in school about the children who worked in the mines? That is still happening in other countries. One example is the children, as young as 4, who are used to manufacture soccer balls.

We help keep our country safe in the case of a world war because we have the goods to make the products that we need to protect ourselves. Steel, lumber, fabric, food and the basic necessities to keep our troops safe and supplied. Being self sufficient has been a strength of this country.

It is ecologically sound to produce in our own country. We have pollution laws to prevent extreme

pollution created in other countries. We use less of a carbon footprint when it is not shipped the minimum distance of 7252 miles (USA to China) prior to hitting our shores. The good news is that small manufacturing plants are opening in areas that have the raw goods needed to produce the products.

Let's keep America strong by keeping our unions strong. The Auxiliary to the APWU has a lot of spending power so we can make a difference. Buy American for all of the above reasons and to support our own families, neighbors, and country. Let's pledge to make this a very Red, White and Blue holiday season.

For more information google reasons to purchase USA made goods.



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# The Auxiliary Was in the House!

Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor



APWU needed the Auxiliary and they showed up. The Auxiliary had a record number of volunteers for the 2019 All Craft Conference. Members arrived in Las Vegas from all over the US to help with setting up booths, registrations for three different conferences, manning various information booths, running errands, along with working our Auxiliary booth and selling tickets for raffles.



Wherever there was a need, an Auxiliary member was available. It was a lot of work, but these dedicated helpers made everything look easy. The comradery was infectious and it felt like one big family. Hannah Decker, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer and Merika Smith performed their usual miracles by making many of

the arrangements for the All Craft Conference. Their experience showed as they swiftly moved around putting out fires. They weren't alone. Ginny Collins and Katie Maddocks ran the Legislative Conference with ease and efficiency.

Once we were done with the registrations and the delegates were in classes, the Auxiliary had some classes as well. We weren't sure what to expect for

attendance, and were pleasantly surprised when almost every seat was taken. Christine Sarcone lead things off with her class on, "How to Start an Auxiliary". Chris was instrumental in getting the Des Moines Iowa Local Auxiliary on it's feet and had a fun power point demonstration. She gave us advice and guidelines that she has devised along the way. Janice Gillespie followed her with information on legislative issues affecting the APWU and introduced the idea of having an auxiliary member in every state volunteer to be a legislative liaison. Bonnie Sevre spoke on financial issues facing treasurers, and Joyce Tanguay presented an educational ice breaker that lead us to search our constitution. Award certificates were presented to volunteers and our National President, Trisa Mannion, wrapped things up with information on the new COPA rules and regulations.

The classes were successful. A huge and heartfelt thank you to all of the extraordinary volunteers. You are very appreciated. A list of our volunteers is on page 3.



## Your Dues May be Due

January 1st will be here before we know it which is when most members dues will expire. Treasurers from many state and local auxiliaries will be sending payments in to the National Treasurer. We have a few requests to make sure that monies will be credited correctly.

- Type the list.
- Spreadsheets work great if the font is readable.
- Landscape printing is helpful.
- Sort the members by local then last name then first name.
- Do not sort state membership alphabetically.
- List the exact amount of National dues paid.
- Make notations of pertinent information (i.e.: if you have set dues years May to May)

Membership lists may be obtained from the National Treasurer:

Bonnie Sevre at [bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org)



## Volunteers at All Craft Conference 2019

Julio Carios Jr.  
Barnesa Chatterfield  
Najya Clark  
Rosanna Conlin  
Hervert L. Days  
Marivel Fernandez  
Robin Gadbury  
Michelle Hewitt  
Monica Holefield  
Stacie Holloway  
Roseann Hudson  
Denise Larson-Fischer



Talley Luke-Wright  
Kelly Macho  
Mary Miller  
Theresa Oakden  
Doris Poland  
Maria Robarge – new member  
Christine Sarcone  
Tiffanie Schultz  
Sandra Wheeler  
Wanda Wroten  
Beth Zamudo

### Raffle Winners

Fitbit- Jeanmarie Johnson-Illinois  
Scarf- Ellen Poai-Hawaii  
Scarf- Colleen Kosakowski-New York

Also: Congratulations to 19 (50/50) win-

### Auxiliary Classes 2019



## Funds for Fisher House

Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

The delegates at the 2018 National Convention chose the Fisher House Foundation for the 2018-2020 human relations project. We pledged to raise money and collect donations for these “homes away from home” for veteran’s families. We have collected at auxiliary and union meetings and picnics, state conferences and conventions all across the country. The Fisher House Foundation currently has eighty-four comfort homes located near VA hospitals to provide lodging for the families of military personnel and veterans who are hospitalized. All of their services are free, from the roomy suites, to meals, to transportation to and from the hospitals. The foundation also accepts frequent flyer miles for their Hero Miles Program. Since 2005 they have provided more than 70,000 plane tickets to injured and ill service members and their families worth nearly \$105 million. This foundation, established by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, has saved recipients more than \$407 million since 1990. (source-[www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)).

This all leads up to the incredible generosity of the APWU members at the All Craft conference in Las Vegas. Rebecca Kingsley, District 2 Coordina-

tor, challenged the Maintenance Craft Divisions to see which region would donate the most. Jeff Beaton, Maintenance Craft MBA Central Region, helped things along by inviting the clerk craft and the BMC to join the contest. Past National Auxiliary President Doris Poland, and Auxiliary member and Navy veteran Kelly Macho, and her daughter and auxiliary member Talley Luke-Wright were instrumental in reaching out to APWU members in various sessions. This resulted in us exceeding our expectations. The total amount raised was \$10,669.65. The clerk craft gave a whopping \$5247.27 and maintenance added another \$3229.46 with Central Region leading with \$822.00. We received \$1005.47 from Motor Vehicle and Support Services gave \$208.00. At the BMC Conference we collected \$647.00 with another \$235.00 from our raffle and \$97.45 from loose change.

Thank you to all that participated. All monies collected will be presented to the Fisher Foundation after the conclusion of the National Convention in 2020. The Auxiliary is very proud to represent the APWU.



From our President  
**Trisa Mannion**

The recent resignation of Dorlisa Elerby prompted a search for a new coordinator. Our commitment was to fill the position as soon as possible. We had 7 members show interest in the position. It was not an easy choice to make, honestly, all of the candidates are more than qualified. After interviews and many hours of discussion and an Executive Board vote we selected Donnita Cameron of Detroit, Michigan. You

can expect letters of communication each month from her. She is already settling into the job with grace and fire. Please join us in welcoming her as the District 5 Coordinator I am going to allow her the honor of introducing herself to you.



**Donnita M. Cameron**  
District 5 Coordinator



Please allow me to introduce myself as the newly appointed

*It takes team work to make a dream work.*

District 5 Coordinator. My name is Donnita Cameron, I was born and raised in the Metro Detroit, Michigan area. I have been a member of the APWU Auxiliary since 2016 and I am honored and blessed to take over this position.

My husband has been involved with the APWU since 1998, first as a union steward and currently as the Local and State MVS Craft Director. Blessed to announce we will be married 30 years next month. We have a son, two daughters, and three handsome grandboys.

As a former government employee with 20 years of service for the Internal Revenue Service, I supported the NTEU (National Treasury Employees Union) and was the Secretary-Treasurer during my 4-year tenure. I am a firm believer in unions and solidarity.

Currently, I am a Members Solutions Representative at a Credit Union and enthusiastic in helping di-

rect members into a better financial solution.

I attended Wayne State University. I am a graduate of Christian University of Southern Indiana receiving an associate degree in Christian Leadership.

I am an Executive Board Member, Sterling Staff Member and Alumna of the Geraldine Marvel Miller Wright Institute for Women in Ministry (GMMWI). I am a supporting Sister of Sister Strength, INC and the Daughters of Promise.

I am the Coordinator for the 3P project (Pretty Panty Project), collecting new packaged panties for distribution to women and young ladies in various shelters.

I am also the Founder and CEO of Victorious Obedient Women (V.O.W): an organization dedicated to teaching life lesson skills. Also, the Coordinator of the 2G project (Gorgeous Girls), collecting sports bras for distribution to young ladies and women in various shelters.

I believe it takes team work to make a dream work. Thank you for this golden opportunity to be a part of the TEAM.

# Know the Players

Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

It's important to learn all we can about the issues the Postal Service faces and to remember that all members of Congress and their constituents have a direct connection to the Post Office. We need to educate them and point out those connections. To do this we need to know the players.

If you're a football fan chances are you know the history of Tom Brady, Julio Jones, Ezekiel Elliott and Ben Roethlisberger. Baseball fans know the stats of Anthony Rizzo, Mike Trout, and Mookie Betts. So it just stands to reason that we should know the players in Congress.



We need to stay informed on which Legislators are in favor and which are opposed and who is still on the fence concerning the bills that the APWU supports. It is paramount that all of us keep a constant conversation going about current legislation involving the Postal Service with our representatives and Senators.

Visiting our legislators can be daunting, but proper preparation can help your meeting go smoothly. Personal stories often resonate with whoever you are

speaking to. Always be aware of the time you are using. Members of Congress and their staff are busy. It's possible that your meeting will take place in a hallway on the way to another engagement that your person needs to attend. It's important to remember to stay bi-partisan. We have and need support from both sides of the aisle

We are a valuable resource for members of congress which makes us good partners Our Auxiliary mission is to assist the APWU and support the legislation the union supports. With that said, be mindful of the Hatch Act. It's imperative that we keep politics out of our conversations. Do not bring up COPA or offer your support. They will have to shut you down at that point to keep from jeopardizing themselves. Auxiliary members who are not government employees are not bound by the Hatch Act, but legislators and their staff are.



The current political climate, being what it is, and with elections looming, this is the perfect time for the Auxiliary to step up even more. After all, the issues the APWU is facing effects us all.

## Meeting the Players

### 1. *Do your homework.*

- It is important to research the lawmaker you are going to interview. How have they voted in the past on our issues? What legislation are they sponsoring? What committees are they on? This information can be found on [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov).

### 2. *Be prepared.*

- Make an appointment
- Write down what you want to say. This will give you something to refer to. The legislative department will provide you with a script upon request.
- Bring materials and copies for the legislator and their staff, including your contact information.
- Know the issues.

### 3. *Once there, stay focused.*

- Introduce yourself and who you represent.
- Be specific. Stick to one issue.
- Be conversational, not confrontational.
- Do not give misleading information. Only facts.
- Accept the fact that you might end up speaking to an aide. That is OK. They will pass your information to the legislator.
- Be patient. Be a good winner or a good loser.
- Get contact information before you leave.

### 4. *Afterwards.*

- Follow up with a phone call, e-mail, or letter.
- Send a thank you.



# New APWU Health Plan Director



A huge welcome to Sarah Rodriguez as our new Health Plan Director. She brings with her many years of union leadership and business experience.



**OPEN SEASON 2019**

Open Season Hotline  
(800) PIC-APWU | [www.apwuhp.com](http://www.apwuhp.com)

More Open Season  
information coming soon!



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### Premiums for the 2020 plan year.

Enrollment type	Enrollment code	Non-Postal biweekly You pay	Non-Postal monthly You pay	Postal		
				Category 1 You pay	Category 2 You pay	APWU career greater than 1 year
High Option Self Only	471	\$99.41	\$215.38	\$96.13	\$86.31	\$96.13
High Option Self Plus One	473	\$199.74	\$432.77	\$192.74	\$171.73	\$192.74
High Option Self and Family	472	\$257.95	\$558.89	\$250.36	\$227.60	\$250.36
Consumer Driven Option Self Only	474	\$68.96	\$149.42	\$66.20	\$57.24	\$171.6
Consumer Driven Option Self Plus One	476	\$149.88	\$324.75	\$143.89	\$124.40	\$46.41
Consumer Driven Option Self and Family	475	\$163.51	\$354.27	\$156.97	\$135.71	\$54.45

Postal Category 1 rates apply to career bargaining unit employees represented by the APWU, IT/AS, NALC and NPMHU.  
 Postal Category 2 rates apply to career bargaining unit employees represented by PPOA.  
 Non-Postal rates apply to career non-bargaining unit Postal Service employees and career employees represented by NRLC.  
 APWU non-career (PSE) employees: Please see the APWU Health Plan PSE flyer.  
 APWU career rates apply to employees with more than one year in FEHB; otherwise, see Postal Category 1.

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## Auxiliary in Action at All Craft



# 2018-2020 Human Relations Project

By: Karen Wolver - Human Relations Chair

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

Another new Fisher House is under way at the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center in Huntington, WV. It will be the first Fisher House built in the state. Once complete, up to 16 families can stay at the home free of charge on any given night, allowing them to be close to their loved ones at the most stressful time – during hospitalization at the VA medical center.

The 16-suite, 13,270 + sq. ft. "comfort home" will join 84 other Fisher Houses operating in the United States and Europe. The 16-suite Huntington VA Fisher House will provide "a home away from home" for more than 500 families each year and is estimated to save families more than half a million dollars in lodging and transportation costs.

Debra Stewart, District 4 Coordinator, attended the Texas State Convention which was held in Killean, Texas from June 26-29. She had two amazing helpers collecting funds for Fisher House. Pictured is Kenzie Williams, Debra's granddaughter, and GG, daughter of Auxiliary member Sylvia Reyna.



They helped collect toiletries and books for Fisher House which was sent to the local Fisher House in Dallas, TX.

We will present Fisher House with our generous cash donations that we have been collecting for two years at our National Convention in Los Angeles, CA.



The Convention season is coming to an end, but it is never too late to send me pictures and information on what your state and locals have been doing to help raise funds. We need to keep our National APWU up to date with what we have been doing.



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